

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /056 W

----- 024381

R 111054Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 632

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VT, SP

SUBJECT: VATICAN ENVOY CONCLUDES VISIT TO SPAIN

REF MADRID 7642

BEGIN SUMMARY: VATICAN SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CASAROLI ENDED THREE-DAY VISIT TO MADRID DEC 7 AND, TOGETHER WITH FONMIN CORTINA ISSUED FINAL COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH BOTH SIDES SAID THAT A TEXT HAD BEEN ELABORATED UPDATING 1953 CONCORDAT BUT WAS STILL IN NEGOTIATING PHASE. END SUMMARY

1. VATICAN SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CASAROLI VISITED MADRID DEC 5-7 FOR PURPOSE OF CONTINUING TALKS ON UPDATING OF CONCORDAT OF 1953 (REFTEL). TALKS WERE HELD WITH FONMIN CORTINA BUT CASAROLI ALSO HAD MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF SPANISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, CARDINAL TARANCON, AND WITH PREMIER ARIAS NAVARRO.

2. MFA RELEASED DEC 7 JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH CASAROLI AND CORTINA REFERRED TO CONTINUATION OF "TALKS FOR THE UPDATING OF EXISTING CONCORDAT" IN WHICH THEY

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"STUDIED ALL THE FORMULATIONS WORKED OUT IN JULY IN

ROME ENABLING THEM TO DRAW UP A DRAFT TEXT WHICH WAS STILL IN ACTIVE NEGOTIATING PHASE". PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, CASAROLI, TOGETHER WITH CORTINA, TALKED WITH JOURNALISTS AT AIRPORT. CASAROLI REFERRED TO UPDATING WITH RESPECT TO CONCORDAT'S "SPIRIT", BUT NOT "EACH PARTICULAR PROVISION". WHAT WAS REQUIRED, HE SAID, WAS TO ESTABLISH A BASIS WHICH WAS MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE "NEW SITUATIONS IN SPAIN AND THE CHURCH". ASKED ABOUT DATE FOR NEXT TALKS, CORTINA REPLIED BY SAYING THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE IN ROME BUT WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND FOR AN APPROPRIATE TIME WHEN BOTH HE AND CASAROLI WERE FREE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS.

3. COMMENT:HOASAROLI'S VISIT HAS BEEN FRONT-PAGED AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY COMMENTARIES ABOUT VISIT'S IMPORTANCE. ONE COMMENTATOR REFERRED OBLIQUELY TO POSSIBILITY OF DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS BETWEEN SPANISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE AND VATICAN SECRETARIAT BY NOTING THAT TARANCON AND CARDINAL JUBANY (BARCELONA) WERE NOT PRESENT AT DINNER GIVEN BY CORTINA DEC 6. GOS APPARENTLY WANTS TO KEEP TALKS IN STATE CHANNELS AND NOT INVOLVE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE DIRECTLY ALTHOUGH CASAROLI FELT FREE HIMSELF TO TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH TARANCON DURING HIS VISIT. THIS IS FIRST TIME IN WHICH BOTH SIDES HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WERE WORKING ON A SPECIFIC TEXT, APPARENTLY THE OUTCOME OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN ROME LAST JULY ON CERTAIN ARTICLES WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER IN A COMBINED TEXT. "YA" (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT) HAS NOTED THAT TWO MOST RECENT ITALIAN PREMIERS (RUMOR AND MORO) HAVE COME OUT PUBLICLY FOR THE COMPLETE REVISION OF CONCORDAT WITH VATICAN. "YA" POINTS OUT THAT MANY PROBLEMS ARE NOT THE SAME IN SPAIN AND ITALY, E.G., DIVORCE, AND APPOINTMENT OF BISHOPS, PUBLIC EDUCATION, BUT IMPLICATION OF COMMENT IS THAT THERE MAY BE FORCES IN SPAIN WHICH ALSO WOULD PREFER COMPLETE REVISION RATHER THAN TOUCHING-UP OF 1953 CONCORDAT. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, VATICAN WOULD SEEM TO BE MOTIVATED BY EFFORT TO UPDATE CONCORDAT WITH SPAIN IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD FACILITATE NEGOTIATION OF NEW CONCORDAT WITH GOI WHEREAS SPANISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CATHOLIC HIERARCHY WOULD LIKE TO SEE REVISION WHICH WOULD LEAVE CHURCH LESS COMPROMISED WITH SPANISH STATE.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Film Number: D740359-0697
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